

Minutes Youth Council Meeting

Georgia Mountains Workforce Development
May 22, 2014
Georgia Mountains Regional Commission Office
Gainesville, GA

The Georgia Mountains Workforce Development Youth Council met on Thursday, May 22nd at Georgia Mountains Regional Commission Office, in Gainesville, Georgia.

Attendees were:

Members	Staff	Guest
William Wade	John Phillips	Katrina Dodge (for Bindy Auvermann)
Scott Crain	Jessica Williams	Shelby Campbell
Bonnie Laffredo	Danielle Avelar	Wade Rhodes
Lynne Warren	Ebony Tucker	
Shirley Davis	Samantha O'Day	

Jessica Williams, Workforce Development Youth Supervisor, called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees. (In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair.)

Jessica began the meeting by showing the Council members a video of the two summer orientations held in April. Orientations were held from 9-2 on Saturdays. The White County orientation was held at Unicoi State Park in Helen, Georgia and had 29 attendees. The Hall County orientation was held at the North Hall Community Center in Gainesville, Georgia and had 53 attendees. Students went over the trainee handbook, interviewing, and how to dress for success. Jessica stated that orientation gives the youth opportunities to meet youth in other areas and learn how to be successful and self-sufficient. Hygiene kits were given to all of the youth in attendance; there was also a photo booth to give the youth a fun activity to do during breaks.

John Phillips, Workforce Development Director stated that he wanted the orientations to be recorded to show the Board how the orientations were organized. He also recommended that the video be sent to schools so they can see what Workforce Development has to offer, and hopefully motivate them to become more involved.

Lynne Warren, Banks County Schools requested copy of the video to show during pre-planning for the upcoming school year.

Jessica went on to explain that this year, the summer program will be the second solely WIA funded summer program since being under the Regional Commission. There will be approximately 102 youth participating this year. Jessica stated that she feels confident with the staff and summer counselors, and that the program will run

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smoothly. There is a need for more worksites in several counties. Patrick Shuler, Workforce Development Program Assistant, has been working on obtaining worksites this year and has had difficulty getting worksites in White and Hall Counties. He has gotten several commitments from employers in those counties but no signed contracts have been returned.

Jessica asked the Council to help with finding worksites in those counties. She gave the details of the summer program. Youth are employed for six weeks June 9th – July 18th. They are allowed to work a maximum of 30 hours per week and all worker's compensation insurance and wages are paid through Workforce Development. Once the youth have successfully completed the summer program, then they qualify to be placed in one of the other programs that Workforce offers such as:

- Year-Round Work Experience
- After-School Tutoring
- Credit Recovery
- GED Prep
- Life Skills Workshops
- College/Tech School Assistance

Jessica stated if Council members wanted more information on these programs, they could contact her and she would send it to them.

Will Wade, Dawson County Schools asked if Workforce Development had partnered with Pioneer RESA to get the schools more involved. John explained that there is a partnership, but currently only for Adult services. Will stated that the Georgia School Board Association has monthly meetings and it would be a good idea for Youth staff to attend and get on the agenda to help spread the word about the services that are offered. He also mentioned contacting Beverly Maloney who is in charge of the homeless program in Dawson County.

Jessica asked the Council to send her information on any upcoming meetings that they felt Workforce needed to participate in.

Will presented the idea of speaking at Rotary Clubs, public county meetings, and school board meetings to make connections with the schools superintendents.

There are several new projects that Youth staff are working on for the Fall. Jessica explained that staff will try having assembly meetings for juniors and seniors to let them

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know about available services, and also setting up information tables during lunch hours monthly at each of the schools in the region.

Danielle Avelar, Workforce Development Youth Case Manager, went over programs for the summer for youth that are not participating in the work experience program. Habersham Ninth Grade Academy has a group of 14-15 year olds that will meet during the summer to have intensive workshop with Angela Pugh, Independent Living Mentor. The youth are developing a video to cover the "What not to Wear" and interviewing portions of next year's orientations. Youth are scheduled to meet in the mobile training units every Wednesday and receive a \$25 incentive for attending.

For the 2014-2015 school year, youth at the Ninth Grade Academy will have transportation to L.I.F.T. for tutoring and possibly to work.

Students in Hall and Union Counties who are not working will attend tutoring once a week to prepare for graduation test and end of course testing. They will also attend workshops with the Life Skills Mentor.

A partnership with the Enotah Family Circuit will also be developed in 2015. This program is designed to prevent youth from going to RYDC by providing family therapy sessions and access to other resources. Currently there are 4 active participants.

The Woody Gap program will also be developed. The program will have a literacy component where older youth will read to the younger children. Woody Gap High School is the last K-12 in Georgia.

Jessica explained that it has been difficult to break into Lumpkin County, but they have expressed interest in an after school program, and she feels the program will do well.

Samantha updated the Council on the on-going program at the Regional Youth Detention Center. Currently the program has three youth. One is currently in Savannah at a therapeutic facility, another is ready to pre-test for the GED, and the other is actively attending GED classes.

John addressed the issue with participants in RYDC not having state ID's that are needed in order for them to take the GED. He is working with the Commissioners to make it possible for them to obtain proper identification. Youth in the detention center are not considered wards of the state and parents maintain all rights unless the youth has been

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charged with a crime. This has been a challenge with some of the paper work, but staff has worked through it with the help of RYDC staff.

John announced that on July 1st, Workforce Development will no longer be under the Governor's Office but will be under the Department of Economic Development. No major changes are expected nor interruption of services.

Jessica asked the Council to review the meeting minutes from February 27, 2014. Motion to approve the minutes as written was given by Will Wade, seconded by Scott Crain.

Motion to adjourn was given by Lynne Warren, second given by Will Wade.

Meeting adjourned.

Recorders Signature: _____ Date: _____